shared between the Government of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs. 193.50 crore.

Removal of control on drugs

3360. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug manufacturers are demanding to completely do away with controls; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Various suggestions have been made by the pharmaceutical industry regarding the pricing of drugs, which, *inter-alia,* include complete decontrol of the pharma industry. The Government have recently announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy-2002' taking into account:

(i) the essentiality of improving incentives for research and development in the Indian pharmaceutical industry, to enable the industry to achieve sustainable growth particularly in view of anticipated changes in the Patent Law; and

(ii) the need for reducing further the rigours of price control particularly in view of the ongoing process of liberalization.

The main objectives of this Policy are, *inter alia,* ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production.

Subsidized drugs for AIDS

3361. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cheap, subsidized Indian drugs are being used by Nigeria to control AIDS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the programme proposed to provide similar subsidized drugs in India, to help poor patients, especially in rural areas, through international aid as well as co- operation of manufacturing firms, like Cipla and Ranbaxy?